President's Report
Variety is the Spice of Life

Chief Executive Officer's Report
When I Get Older(er)

Faces of Local Government
Five Minutes with Mayor Carmel Torenius
Star Performers

News and Reviews
City of Burnie Receives Landscape Award
No Quick Fix for Devil of a Disease
Innovation in Aged Care on Wish List for Baby Boomers
New Guide to Prevent Building Disputes
Training Under the Building Act 2000
Young People Lighting the Way for Community Safety
National Award for Young Hobart Artist
Glenorchy City Council Receives Arts Partnership Award
Clarence Recycled Water Scheme Extended
New Child Care Centre for Tasman Community
Councils Recognised for Commitment to Workplace Safety
Risk Management Award for Meander Valley
Keep Your Career Moving Ahead - Consider Postgraduate Study
2007 Local Government Election Results
News in Brief
New Councillor Resource Kit

Policy
Addressing the Housing Affordability Crisis

People and Performance
New Council - Fresh Start
What To Do With Board Members Who Don’t Do Anything
SCOPE: Bridging the Gap

Health and Wellbeing
Rural Health Under the Spotlight
Healthy Solutions for Your Workplace
Active Towns Award Winners Announced
Eating With Friends

Environment
NRM Update
Climate Change Update
Climate Futures for Tasmania
In the Regions
Southern Councils Launch Waterwise Campaign
What’s That - An Industrial Waste Design Prize?
Feasibility Study on Container Deposit System
Fox Eradication Update
In Brief

Tourism and Events
Summer Festival Fun
Heritage Highway Goes the 'i' Way
Carbon-neutral Flights Turn Blue Skies Greener
West Tamar Community Inherits Grubb Shaft Museum

ICT
The Point of PowerPoint
New Crimes in a Technology-enabled Environment

Business and Finance
Crisis Management: Plan and Prepare
Partnerships with Powerco Benefit Council and Community
WISE Move for LGAT News
Beyond PR Awarded for Excellence
Quadrant Appoints New Deputy CEO
Kit to Create Better Workplaces
New Consultant Joins High Performance Team

Roads and Engineering
Meander Valley Gets Its Fill
Kingborough Roads Sealed with KiSS
Restrictions on Roadside Messages
Estimating Urban Traffic and Congestion Cost Trends
Sorell Joins National Road Safety Campaign

Around the Nation

Diary Dates
editor’s note

If there’s one feature about our beautiful island state that resonates deeply with most Tasmanians, it’s the preservation of our unique flora and fauna for the enjoyment and benefit of future generations. That’s why it was a pleasure to attend a recent presentation by Dr Steven Smith, Manager of the Tasmanian Devil Facial Tumour Disease Program. Steven and his dedicated team face the unenviable task of saving the Tasmanian devil from the grip of a highly contagious cancer, which threatens extinction in just 20-30 years. Not only is such a prospect unthinkable, it surely demands the support of each and every Tasmanian to report sightings of diseased devils and to make a donation, no matter how small, to help fund vital research. In No Quick Fix for Devil of a Disease on page 10, find out about the work that is currently being carried out and how you, and your organisation can play a part in helping to save Tasmania’s most famous icon.

It was a rather anxious but composed Mayor Carmel Torenius who very kindly agreed to be interviewed for the December edition of LGAT News. At the time, she was awaiting the final results from the Local Government Elections and the strain of not knowing the outcome was starting to show. And rightly so...Carmel was re-elected to her mayoral position, just 152 votes ahead of the competition. Who said life in Local Government was dull? But, any woman who can raise a family and withstand the rigors of public life in what is largely a male domain, who still manages to find the time to pull weeds from the garden, renovate the house and sneak slices of fairy bread when no one is looking, has got my vote. See Five Minutes with Mayor Carmel Torenius on page 6. Details of all successful candidates in the state-wide elections can be found on page 28.

From all at LGAT, Nova Design and Print, and Advertising Media and Associates, we wish you a happy and safe holiday season. See you next year!

Stephanie Watson
Editor

LGAT News
Bringing you the latest and greatest in Tasmanian Local Government
One of the things I really enjoy about Local Government life is the variety of experiences, challenges and issues, which members of our sector confront on a daily basis. No two days are alike and time just seems to fly. The continual flow of reports, agendas, meetings, events and workshops tends to create a never-ending list of community responsibilities. Tasks seem to flow seamlessly from one day to the next.

Whilst there have been occasions where circumstances and situations may have surely tested our resolve, elected members and council staff recognise the many challenges and difficulties facing our sector. The diversity, pitfalls and outcomes of the decision-making process is well-known and Local Government is committed to providing its communities with effective policy, processes and procedures.

The last 12 months has definitely been an exceptionally busy time for Local Government in Tasmania. LGAT has continued to support and effectively represent councils and provide a conduit for interaction and discussion between elected members, councils and representatives of all spheres of government.

The Financial Sustainability Report by Access Economics, commissioned by LGAT on behalf of all councils and released in March 2007, was by and large, more favourable for Tasmanian councils than our mainland colleagues who have undertaken similar assessments. A steering committee, established with representatives from LGMA, GMC, LGO and LGAT, has coordinated working groups to address the 26 recommendations expressed within the report.

The initial lack of communication and information regarding the Treasurer’s desire for water and sewerage reform, combined with very little opportunity for Local Government to be involved in the process, did not augur well for positive outcomes, nor reflect a desire by the State Government for a close relationship. It is to Local Government’s credit that, whilst councils individually may have differing opinions regarding water and sewerage, as a sector, we have been able to progress the debate, realising the requirement for reform. The November General Meeting clearly demonstrated Local Government’s maturity and capacity to work cooperatively and collaboratively. There is still a long way to go on this journey and LGAT and councils are very aware of the importance and potential impacts of this issue.

The individual commitment and support of council staff and elected members who nominate for a variety of committees, boards and working groups on behalf of our sector is greatly appreciated. Thank you all for your contribution.

I congratulate LGAT CEO, Mr Allan Garcia for his leadership role and LGAT staff for their efforts and professionalism. It is imperative that in the months ahead, regardless of the challenges that Local Government will face, that we continue as a sector to be respectful, passionate, positive, responsive and representative of our communities at a local, regional, state and national level.

I will take this opportunity to congratulate successful candidates involved in the October elections and to wish everyone a safe, relaxing and enjoyable festive season.

Variety is the Spice of Life...

MICHAEL GAFFNEY, PRESIDENT
Local Government Association of Tasmania

---

Wise Lord & Ferguson

device to advantage
Chartered Accountants

Wise Lord & Ferguson has been in business for 117 years and today we continue to build on our reputation by serving our clients in innovative and proactive ways.

We provide Business Services, Audit & Assurance, Tax Consulting, Financial Services, Management Consulting, Corporate Recovery & Insolvency.

Our experience in working with local government and LGAT is comprehensive:

- Internal and External Audits
- Accounting Assistance
- Services Integration
- Strategic Planning
- Future Directions Workshops
- Community Consultations
- Social Plans
- Organisational Leadership and Change

Take advantage of our experience.
Call us today to discuss your project needs.
160 Collins Street Hobart
Ph 6223 6155 www.wlf.com.au

---

December 2007 LGAT News
So how old is old? When I was young, it was probably anyone over 30 but as you approach that sparkling age, it all becomes relative. As did the magical 40, and as I am sure the big 50 will be.

The important thing is that if we are lucky, we get to these numbers and more. And the chances of getting to the really big numbers depends on life choices in terms of keeping active, eating sensibly and keeping the mind sharp. Obesity, diabetes, heart disease and many other afflictions are impacting on Tasmanians at an alarming rate and we all need to do our bit.

Funding for community infrastructure was a key plank of Local Government’s election bid. Upgrading swimming pools, walking tracks and sporting facilities to increase community participation in healthy activities was a key feature of the bid to both major parties, to underpin the preventative measures which could be taken to build more active communities. The $1 billion being sought over a four-year period would serve to upgrade the many facilities around the country that have fallen into disrepair and no longer provide the amenity that would allow the high levels of activity previously enjoyed by communities.

Many councils have taken up the challenges being promoted through the Premier’s Physical Activity Council and are looking at ways in which they can improve access to leisure pursuits in the community, and provide improved opportunities for their staff, through encouraging and supporting active pursuits and healthy lifestyles.

While it would be nice to think that the more we do now, the less that would be required later but the fact is, that with our demographic profile, the pressures are only going to increase. Even so, there are many things that councils can think about doing.

An essential element in promoting inclusiveness and integration within the community, is to encourage positive attitudes to ageing and older people. Population ageing doesn’t have to be negative. It presents opportunities to value maturity and experience.

While a positive attitude is a step in the right direction, the provision of high-quality, affordable and accessible services will be critical in caring for the growing number of older people. Although most older people consider themselves to be in good health, they still want the security of having accessible and affordable services located close to their families, should the need arise. Ensuring that the services are available, that there is support for carers, and creating links between aged and health care services, represent major challenges for councils and other governments.

While Tasmania already has a higher rate of disabilities than the national average, the ageing population will include an even higher percentage of people with disabilities who, as a result of skilled care and improved technologies, will live longer than in previous generations. Supportive environments and creating barrier-free designs are areas in which councils can play their part.

Councils are already feeling the impacts of sea and tree change. This, coupled with the changing needs of older people and the changing locations of services for the ageing, will have major impacts on investment, local economies and demand for services. Programs that encourage employment opportunities and enterprise creation, which older people can contribute to and benefit from, will be important to local communities as the population ages.

Planning and development of a wide range of facilities can have a significant impact on the quality of life of older people and can influence the way older people enjoy and participate in their local community. However, impediments exist in the current planning and development process with regard to age-friendly infrastructure, in particular, the timely completion of aged care facilities. The development of age-friendly infrastructure will be essential if older people are allowed to remain active and independent. The planning, designing and building of environments for older people, in both the public and private domain, will need to be considered at all stages of the planning process.

There will also be added revenue pressures with older people moving to concession arrangements and seeking to meet the costs of living (including rates) from reduced income levels.

Ageing and healthy communities represent huge challenges to all councils. The community infrastructure fund provides one opportunity but there are many others that councils can facilitate within their own communities. Many have already accepted the challenge and others are seeking to get involved. The Association continues to work with the State and Federal Governments on the Tripartite Agreement on Ageing and the ALGA is in pursuit of the strategies that have been identified in their work.

Remember, if we are lucky, we all get old and I, for one, would like that place to be as convenient and as friendly as possible. If councils need any information or advice in relation to strategies or programs they can adopt to help the likes of me, and those that have already made the grade, please call the Association.
Doing business while travelling doesn’t have to be hard work. At Country Club, we offer all the facilities you need to get the job done – and have a relaxing time when the workday’s over. Our well-equipped business centre, in-room high speed Internet access and close proximity to Launceston’s business district allow you to conduct your business effectively and professionally. And at the end of the working day, you can unwind in one of our many bars and restaurants. It’s the perfect base for doing business in the North.

For corporate/government rates and reservations call 6335 5777.